

[Traditions]

TALES - ANECDOTES

Accession no.

W10926

Date received

10/10/40

Consignment no.

1

Shipped from

Wash. Off.

Label

Amount

1p.

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Form[md;]3

Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Traditions. Begin: I remember lots about the war.

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Place of origin Spartanburg S. Car. Date 6-8-38

Project worker

Project editor Elmer Turnage

Remarks Local traditions, Newberry, S. C.

W10926

Project 1885-1

Folklore

Spartanburg Dist. 4

June 8, 1938 390555

Edited by:

Elmer Turnage

TRADITIONS

"I remember lots about the war. My father was a soldier in the Confederate army. I remember when Sherman came through and burned houses and stole horses and things around our house. The Yankee soldiers stole much food; but my father dug big holes in the ground and buried large pieces of meat, sugar and things. When the soldiers had gone, they would take up the things and use them. Many of the poor people were in a bad fix after the war. Some of the people who buried the salt meat, took the earth where it had been buried and boiled out the salt to use in cooking.

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"I have seen slaves auctioned off on the block. Once when I was in Sandersville, Ga., just a few years back, I saw one of those old auction blocks. It was covered like a round house in the middle of town, well preserved and kept as a relic by the people.

"Old man Dominick kept blood hounds to run down niggers with. Some of his slaves got on my father's place, and he tried to come on it with his blood hounds, but my father made him stay out. Father had his gun, and when he was asked to show his pass for the negroes, he patted his gun and said, 'This is my pass, and if you come further I will let you have some of it.' Most of the runaway negroes were hunted by the patrollers.

"After the war, the Red Shirts paraded around our community and I often rode with them."

Source: Pat W. Sheely (81), Newberry, S.C. Interviewer: G.L. Summer, Newberry, S.C. 5/25/38.